

And I think of all the citizens at the grassroots in countries around the world, in places where it's dangerous sometimes, who are pushing to hold governments accountable—lawyers who are monitoring elections and activists in civil society and innovators building platforms to enhance transparency—they give me hope.

All of you coming together from across sectors, working together: government, private sector, civil society, faith groups. Because you understand that despite whatever differences of religion or background or race or region, we are united as one human race and by our abiding commitment to the inherent dignity of every human being. All of you give me hope.

Just as you've had a partner in me and my administration, I'm confident that as we work for the prosperity and justice and peace that all of us seek in the world, as we reach people who may feel forgotten and bring hope to remote corners of this planet, I am absolutely con-

vinced that you'll have a strong partner in the United States of America. We've shown this can work. Now we've just got to keep it up. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in Atrium Hall at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Strive Masiyiwa, founder and group executive chairman, Econet, who introduced the President; Jill T. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden; former White House Senior Adviser David M. Axelrod; Nimna Di-ayté, president, Saloum Federation of Corn Producers; and Mariana Costa Checa, co-founder and executive director, Laboratoria. He also referred to S. 1252, which was approved July 20 and assigned Public Law No. 114–195; and H.R. 5243.

## Statement on the Death of Representative K. Mark Takai

July 20, 2016

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Representative Mark Takai today. Mark was always a fighter. It's the spirit he brought to more than two decades of public service on behalf of the people of Hawaii. He stood up for America's most vulnerable. He championed our troops and veterans and proudly wore our Nation's uniform. And his relentless push for cancer research inspired countless Ameri-

cans fighting the same battle as him. Simply put, our country is better off because of Mark's contributions. He leaves a legacy of courage, of service, and of hope. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark's wife Sami, their two children, and his many friends and family.

NOTE: The statement referred to Matthew and Kaila Takai, children of Rep. Takai.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations

July 20, 2016

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emer-

gency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2016.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an un-

usual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Honoring the 2015 World Series Champion Kansas City Royals July 21, 2016

*The President.* Thank you. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. Let's give it up for the World Series Champions, the Kansas City Royals! I know many of you've been waiting a long time to hear this, so I'll say it again: the World Series Champion Kansas City Royals!

As you can tell, we've got quite a few Royals fans in the house, including some Members of Congress. I see some members of my Cabinet—[laughter]—as well as former Cabinet members. We're also proud to be joined by a true American patriot, a World War II veteran, and one of the finest public servants America has ever known, Senator Bob Dole. There you go.

I also want to recognize the Kansas City mayors from both sides of the border: Sly James—there he is—and Mark Holland. More importantly, Mark's son, Luke, shortstop on—what's the name of your team?

*Luke Holland, son of Mayor Mark R. Holland of Kansas City, KS.* The Braves.

*The President.* The Braves? Not the Atlanta Braves. [Laughter] Just want to be clear. But he's a shortstop. He—Skip, you may want to check out what he's got.

We're proud to have Royals owner David Glass and team president Dan Glass here. Give

them a big round of applause. We've got General Manager Dayton Moore here. Two of the greatest Royals of all time, George Brett and Frank White. And the winningest manager in Royals history, give it up for Ned Yost!

Now, I'm not sure if anybody is aware of this, but my Press Secretary happens to be a Royals fan. [Laughter] Where's Josh? Yes, I know. There he is right in the front row. [Laughter] If you asked Josh to choose the best day of his life, I'm pretty sure he'd say his wedding day and the birth of his son. But this is close. [Laughter] It's really close. I notice he has his son here, training him—even though he's more interested right now in sucking his thumb—to be a proper Royals fan.

And let's face it, it's been a long road for Royals fans. There were some dark years, some tough decades. But that started to change when Dayton came to town in 2006. He coupled some of baseball's sharpest analytics minds with Ned's managerial style, which has produced a lot of wins, not to mention his own Twitter hashtag: hashtag #Yosted. [Laughter] All of which has combined to create one of the grittiest, most complete teams we've seen in a long time.